

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael S. Huppert on 27 October 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Previously withdrawn **claims 11-13 are cancelled.**

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: " Equipment for positioning when replacing anodes in an electrolysis cell of Hall-H6roult type with prebaked anodes, the equipment comprising a crane with an anode gripper to lift out used anodes and to insert new anodes, the anode gripper acts in a predefined point of the anode's hanger, with which a new anode is inserted at a height in accordance with a calculated height based on the height of the anode removed, the height of the anode removed and the height of the new anode being measured against a common reference level, wherein:

a laser-based measuring apparatus for length measurements is arranged between a point on the crane, which is stationary in terms of height during the operation, and a point on the anode gripper, which moves together with the anode, and

the measuring apparatus is operable to measure the heights stated and transfer the data signals to a PLC, which processes measured, saved values and determines the insertion height of the new anode in accordance with a specific algorithm; and

the laser-based measuring apparatus is mounted on the crane, the laser-based measuring apparatus including a laser cell, which is operable to emit a vertical laser light and detect reflected laser light".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 14-21 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AZM PARVEZ whose telephone number is (571)270-1391. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30 / Alt Fri day off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DERRIS BANKS can be reached on 571-272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3729

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Azm Parvez/
Examiner
Art Unit 3729

/Derris H Banks/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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